THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) IPCL has a well established policy approved by its Board for the selection of dealers/agents. Dealers/agents are selected after a systematic scrutiny and assessment of the financial position, commercial experience in the relevant field and the availability of the infrastructural and communication facilities of the applicants.

While there is no specific reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates in the selection of dealers/agents, IPCL has a policy of giving preference to SC/ST candidates who fulfil the minimum requirement.

Arms Licence to M.Ps.

1571. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for providing arms on out of turn basis to Members of Parliament, who hold licence for the purpose at market rate from the ordnance factories;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that if a Member of Parliament who is eligible to get licence for buying three arms purchases any arm from the market then in that case he is not eligible to purchase arms on out of turn basis from the Defence Ministry for five years; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would remove this condition of five years and allow him to buy at least one arm on out of turn basis?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Members of Parliament are eligible for "Out of turn" allotment of a weapon from the Ordnance Factories provided no weapon has been obtained by them ex-import/ex-Ordnance Factories during the preceding five years. The purpose of this condition is to enable large number of persons from all eligible Categories to avail of the facility.

(c) No, Sir.

1572. [*Transferred to the 31st July, 1991*]

Licencing limit

1573. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the industrial licensing limit Rs. 200 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) No investment limit have been prescribed for exemption from the licensing provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act under the recently announced industrial policy.

Safety of nuclear power plants

1574. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to ensure the safety of the nuclear power plants in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details in this regard for the nuclear power plants in the country are as follows:

(i) Design of the plants based on the concept of defence in depth philosophy provides for safety features in the normal operation of the plant, preventing an accident and